

MINUTES
HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MARCH 26, 2025

Pursuant to Public Notice issued by Secretary-Treasurer, Robert G. Morgan, II, the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority was held March 26, 2025, at the Authority Office, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1500, Jackson, MS, and via video conference, at 4:00 p.m. The following were present constituting a quorum:

Trustees Present

Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, President
Vanda M. Brumfield, Vice President – *via video conference*
James E. Covington - *via video conference*
Philip A. Gunn
Willie A. Jones – *via video conference*
Dr. Yolanda D. McElroy – *via video conference*
Jason E. Owens – *via video conference*
LeRoy Walker, Jr.
Mark Wise
Louis P. Wright

Trustee Absent

Vincent J. Byrd

Excused Absences

Robert G. Morgan, II

Staff Present

Luxie L. Frison, Director of Office Management & Accounting
Kemsye T. Smith, Director of Workforce Development & Asst. Business Development

Staff Absent

None

Consultant

None

Attorney Present

Dorian E. Turner

Guest Present

Wally Hammons - *Owner, Steel Stage North America*
Kevin Cole – *District Manager, Woodgrain (formerly Huttig)*
Ralph L. Clark, II – *Vice President Commercial Banking, Trustmark National Bank*

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CALL TO ORDER AND APPOINT A RECORDER

President Edderek L. (Beau) Cole called the Regular Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority to order at 4:05 p.m. Luxie L. Frison was appointed to record the minutes and provide hosting services for video conference access to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by LeRoy Walker Jr., seconded by Philip A. Gunn, with all seven trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Covington, Gunn, McElroy, Walker, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the agenda as presented.

Willie A. Jones joined the meeting via video conference at 4:11 p.m.

Mark Wise entered the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Wally Hammonds, owner of Stage Steel Pro, presented his steel cage business and expressed his desire to expand his business presence in Hinds County. Mr. Hammonds is interested in purchasing five acres of land closest to the Raymond Airport in the John Bell Williams (AeroTech) Industrial Park. No action was taken by the board.

Jason E. Owens joined the meeting via video conference at 4:21 p.m.

Kevin Cole of Woodgrain, formerly Huttig, gave the board an update of issues and concerns in the Northwest Industrial Park. No action was taken by the board.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Robert G. Morgan, II

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by LeRoy Walker, Jr., seconded by Philip A. Gunn, with all ten trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Covington, Gunn, Jones, McElroy, Owens, Walker, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the February 26, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. (Attachment No. 1)

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FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report, consisting of a Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the period ending February 28, 2025, and Check Detail Report were presented. (*Attachment No. 2*)

Upon a motion by Louis P. Wright, seconded by Mark Wise, with all ten trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Covington, Gunn, Jones, McElroy, Owens, Walker, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

RESOLVED to approve the February 2025 Check Detail Report.

TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK

Ralph L. Clark, II, Vice President of Commercial Banking-Metro with Trustmark National Bank, spoke with the board regarding ICS cash management program and answered questions from the board.

After discussion, and upon a motion by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, seconded by LeRoy Walker, Jr. with eight trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Gunn, Jones, McElroy, Walker, Wise and Wright) voting in favor and, two trustees (Covington and Owens) voting against, it was

RESOLVED to accept and proceed with the proposed ICS contract, subject to TNB executing an addendum to the contract documents that strikes any illegal provisions.

After further discussion, and upon a motion by Louis P. Wright, seconded by Mark Wise, with all ten trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Covington, Gunn, Jones, McElroy, Owens, Walker, Wise and Wright) present voting, it was

RESOLVED to solicit proposals from various banking institutions in Hinds County to provide information about what they can offer in terms of banking services and investment rates of return for HCEDA funds.

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

President Cole asked Personnel Committee Chairwoman Willie Jones to provide the board an update of the committee's executive director's search. Ms. Jones shared that 57 applications had been received via JotForm by the March 15, 2025, deadline, and five applicants had been selected for initial interviews scheduled to begin on Friday, March 28, 2025. All trustees will receive personnel committee meeting notices for the scheduled interviews.

Louis P. Wright exited the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

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President Cole gave remarks and highlighted a few bills currently being considered by the Mississippi Legislature.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR UPDATE

President Cole, in the absence of Glenn McCullough, provided a report on project updates, meetings, and conferences attended on behalf of the Authority.

**DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ASST. BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director of Workforce Development and Assistant Business Development, Kemsye T. Smith, reported on ACT WorkKeys Readiness Certificate testing, Hinds County workforce data, and projects and grant updates. Ms. Smith shared photographs from her recent visit to the Wynndale Industrial Park with President Cole highlighting illegal dumping, erosion, and maintenance needs.

Willie A. Jones exited the meeting via video conference.

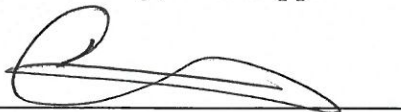
Philip A. Gunn exited the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and upon a motion by LeRoy Walker, Jr., seconded by Mark Wise, with all seven trustees (Brumfield, Cole, Covington, McElroy, Owens, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was


RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

**Hinds County Economic Development
Authority
Hinds County, Mississippi**


Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, President

ATTEST this 30th day of April 2025.

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Robert G. Morgan, II, Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

1. February 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. February 2025 Finance Report
3. Senior Advisor to the HCEDA Board of Trustees March 2025 Activity Report
4. Director of Workforce Development and Asst. Business Development Report